

Funding Strategy

USFWS would acquire funding through an expanded budget request to the U.S. Congress and through the creation of partnerships with private industry.

Management Action 4: Establish by 1995 a consistent and effective mitigation program to compensate for unavoidable permitted wetlands losses.

Explanation: Mitigation compensates for the loss of smaller, fragmented wetlands with the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of larger, contiguous wetlands. A practical and coordinated system of mitigating wetlands damage, that is permitted only after all efforts to avoid and minimize alteration of wetlands have been considered, would ensure the greatest possible long-term benefit to vital habitats. Mitigation banking is a mechanism that allows land developers to alter wetlands in exchange for financial contributions toward the acquisition, enhancement, restoration, or creation of wetlands with similar value. This practice would be evaluated for expanded use in the region.

Critical Steps

1. The Division of Environmental Management (DEM), in conjunction with the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and other involved agencies would continue to develop effective wetland mitigation procedures. State level research and development of nursery techniques for wetland tree species would be encouraged.